

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of multi-stage creation of multimedia content, comprising the steps of:

incorporating multimedia assets into a framework as a series of related frames comprising a header frame, a thumbnail frame, a meta frame, one or more media frames and an end of sequence frame;

creating a multimedia description file in a template for formatting multimedia assets;

combining the multimedia assets and the multimedia description file in the template through a batch-processing program to create a multimedia repository file executable on a multimedia player;

storing the multimedia repository file ~~as a single file~~ on a shared storage device;

accessing the multimedia repository file by at least one authoring session manager for access to the multimedia assets, for creation of a modified multimedia description file in a template, and for creation of a modified multimedia repository file upon combination of the multimedia assets and the modified multimedia description file; and

for each authoring session manager, storing the modified multimedia repository file ~~as a single file~~ on a storage device associated with the authoring session manager, wherein the modified multimedia repository file is configured for execution on a multimedia player.

2. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
injecting other content into the multimedia description file by another user.

3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
creating an extensible markup language-based multimedia repository file.

4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
using a textual editor to create an extensible markup language-based multimedia repository file.

5. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
using an extensible markup language-based multimedia repository file as a data interchange among other multimedia content creation applications.

6. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
managing the creation of the template and the multimedia description file in stages by different users.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the multimedia description file is created in stages by different users injecting content into the template.

10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the multimedia repository file is a multimedia container in a binary format.

11. (Currently amended) A system for multi-stage creation of editable multimedia content executable on a multimedia player, comprising:

processor means for incorporating multimedia assets into a framework as a series of related frames comprising a header frame, a thumbnail frame, a meta frame, one or more media frames and an end of sequence frame;

processor means for creating a multimedia description file in a template for formatting multimedia assets;

processor means for combining the multimedia assets and the multimedia description file in the template through a batch-processing program to create a multimedia repository file executable on a multimedia player;

processor means for storing the multimedia repository file ~~as a single file~~ on a shared storage device;

processor means for accessing the multimedia repository file by at least one authoring session manager for access to the multimedia assets, for creation of a modified multimedia description file in a template, and for creation of a modified multimedia repository file upon combination of the multimedia assets and the modified multimedia description file; and

for each authoring session manager, processor means for storing the modified multimedia repository file ~~as a single file~~ on a storage device associated with the authoring session manager, wherein the modified multimedia repository file is configured for execution on a multimedia player.

12. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 11 further comprising:

means managing the creation of the template and the multimedia description file in stages by different users.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A program medium executable in a computer system for multi-stage creation of multimedia content, comprising:

program code in a medium for incorporating multimedia assets into a framework as a series of related frames comprising a header frame, a thumbnail frame, a meta frame, one or more media frames and an end of sequence frame;

program code in a medium for creating a multimedia description file in a template for formatting multimedia assets;

program code in a medium for combining the multimedia assets and the multimedia description file in the template through a batch-processing program to create a multimedia repository file executable on a multimedia player;

program code in a medium for storing the multimedia repository file ~~as a single file~~ on a shared storage device;

program code in a medium for accessing the multimedia repository file by at least one authoring session manager for access to the multimedia assets, for creation of a modified multimedia description file in a template, and for creation of a modified multimedia repository file upon combination of the multimedia assets and the modified multimedia description file; and

for each authoring session manager, program code in a medium for storing the modified multimedia repository file ~~as a single file~~ on a storage device associated with the authoring session manager, wherein the modified multimedia repository file is configured for execution on a multimedia player.

15. (Previously presented) The medium of Claim 14 further comprising:

program code creating an extensible markup language-based multimedia repository file.

16. (Previously presented) The medium of Claim 14 further comprising:

program code creating an extensible markup language-based multimedia repository file using a textual editor.

17. (Previously presented) The medium of Claim 14 further comprising:

program code using an extensible markup language-based multimedia repository file as a data interchange among other multimedia creation applications.

18. (Previously presented) The medium of Claim 14 further comprising:

program code managing the creation of the template and multimedia description file in stages by different users.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)